

Press Conference AMLEP REMARKS
Accra, Ghana
24 February 15
Final

Event Date: 24 FEB 2015

Event Location: JHSV Spearhead

Event Time: 1100-1200

Uniform: Summer Whites

RDML Reck Role: Senior U.S. Military Representative

Speaker Order:

-CDR Flemming, APS Mission Commander

-RDML Reck, DIR MPP, C6F VCOM

-CDRE Yawsoon, Flag Officer Fleet

- Ladies and gentleman, good morning. As Commander Flemming just shared, we are here to celebrate the success of the U.S.-Ghana maritime law enforcement operation that has just concluded.
- To the MOC watch standers, crew of Blika (BLEE-KA), Chemle (CHEM-LE), and Spearhead, the combined law enforcement boarding team on Spearhead – job well done. Captain Walker - your leadership in overseeing the overall operation and directing ships and units to detect and enforce maritime law deserves much credit.
- Truly, our teams achieved some great milestones during this year's Africa Maritime Law Enforcement Partnership in Ghana. I credit excellent collaboration and cooperation between Ghanaian and U.S. forces – and the interagency between the ministry of fisheries, Marine police, and military forces.

- Our Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Greenert, and our Sixth Fleet Commander, Vice Admiral Foggo, talk often about forging a Global Network of Navies. Operations like AMLEP are great examples of this idea, by providing us the opportunity to work together to improve interoperability. Not only do we learn a lot about one another, but we also learn how to work together. There is no problem too great and no contribution too small for the Global Network of Navies. Established and tested partnerships will help us overcome the challenges that threaten freedom and security in the global commons.
- The results of this year's AMLEP extend beyond the number of boardings and violations of maritime law. The true end result is greater security in Ghana's exclusive economic zone – security that I am confident will endure.
- We saw this evidenced in late January when the Ghana Navy, specifically GNS Blika whom we worked with here in AMLEP, captured eight pirates and freed the crew aboard

the hijacked tanker Mariam. This event showcased the Ghana Navy's responsive and tactical expertise to locate, board, and then ultimately bring the tanker back to port for follow-on judicial processes.

- While this year's AMLEP is wrapping up, I know this partnership between our forces will stay strong. To Commodore Yawson - and all the interagency organizations represented here – thank you for this great partnership and continued commitment to securing these regional waters. I appreciate the willingness to help our combined teams learn, grow, and adapt in order to make these waters a safer place. Progress and results come from refining our best practices and continually challenging our forces to address situations where they can better themselves.
- With that, I would like to introduce Commodore Yawson, Flag Officer Fleet, to offer his perspective on this year's AMLEP.